

on the anniversary of the bombing of Pearl Harbor and to honor the memory of fellow Cambria County native Marine Sgt. Michael Strank who helped to raise the flag at Iwo Jima.

Vizzini was often the voice for those who did not have one. He was known for rallying at the Cambria County Courthouse for causes that he felt passionately about. To honor the 63 miners who died at the 1940 Sonman Mines explosion in Portage, Pennsylvania, he organized a memorial service. He also was influential in honoring the 112 who lost their lives in the Cambria Steel Company's 1902 Rolling Mine Mill explosion in Johnstown, Pennsylvania.

Madam Speaker, I wish to conclude my remarks by saying that Charlie Vizzini will be remembered as a great American. He was a war hero who continued to serve his country by honoring his fellow veterans throughout his life. His selfless service to others in all walks of life will not be forgotten. Madam Speaker, Charlie Vizzini will truly be missed.

IN MEMORY OF COLONEL DONALD
BLAKESKLEE

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 6, 2009

Mr. SKELTON. Madam Speaker, it is with sadness that I inform the House of the death of Donald Blakeslee, Colonel, United States Army (Ret.) of Miami, Florida.

Col. Blakeslee was born in Fairport Harbor, Ohio. During his teenager years, he became fond of airplanes after watching them race every year at the National Air Races in Cleveland. Consequently, he and a friend, in the mid-1930s, bought a Piper Cub.

Prior to U.S. entrance into World War II, Col. Blakeslee's enthusiasm for fighting became clear when he joined the Royal Canadian Air Force. After pilot training, he was deployed to Britain, where he flew combat missions for the Royal Air Force (RAF) alongside a group of American volunteers known as American Eagle Squadrons. Ultimately, he became commander of the 133rd RAF Eagle Squadrons. When the Eagle Squadrons joined the U.S. Army Air Forces in September 1942, he became commander of the 335th Fighter Squadron. Then on January 1, 1944, Col. Blakeslee was named commander of the 4th Fighter Group of the 8th Fighter Command.

After four years in the European theater, Col. Blakeslee flew nearly 500 missions and had about 1,000 combat missions. According to Barrett Tillman, a former executive secretary of the American Fighter Aces Association, Col. Blakeslee had more missions and hours "than any other American fighter pilot of World War II." Some of his achievements include leading the first escort mission to Berlin on March 6, 1944, in which his group protected Boeing B-17s and Consolidated B-24s while dropping bombs over the German city and setting a record for most enemies shot down in one day at 31 planes on April 8, 1944.

On April 11, 1944, Col. Blakeslee was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross by General Dwight D. Eisenhower. For his service in the Korean War, he received the Legion

of Merit. In all, his military service earned him two Distinguished Service Crosses, seven Distinguished Flying Crosses, two Silver Stars, six Air Medals and the British Distinguished Flying Cross.

After the World War II, Col. Blakeslee remained in the Air Force. He led the 27th Fighter Wing in Korea and served in Vietnam. In 1965, he retired to Florida to live with his wife, Leola Fryer. Col. Blakeslee is survived by his daughter Dawn Blakeslee.

Madam Speaker, Col. Donald Blakeslee was an honorable officer in the military. I am certain that the members of the House will join me in extending their heartfelt condolences to his family and friends. He will be greatly missed.

TRIBUTE TO MR. AND MRS. PAUL
PRYOR HONORING THEIR 70TH
WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

HON. MARK H. SCHAUER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 6, 2009

Mr. SCHAUER. Madam Speaker, I wish to take this opportunity to extend my congratulations to Paul and Arlene Pryor, who celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary earlier this year. Through their devotion to one another, their commitment to their children and grandchildren, and their involvement in community life, Mr. and Mrs. Pryor have contributed a great deal to the State of Michigan and its future.

Standing by each other, Mr. and Mrs. Pryor have demonstrated the power of love for seven decades. This momentous anniversary only epitomizes the devotion they have shared for so many years. Paul and Arlene Pryor are truly an inspiration to many.

Madam Speaker, please join me in celebrating their joyous occasion.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 125TH AN-
NIVERSARY OF MAE EDWARDS
MEMORIAL UNITED METHODIST
CHURCH

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 6, 2009

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 125th Anniversary of Mae Edwards Memorial United Methodist Church in Milton, Florida. Mae Edwards Memorial has long been a positive force in Northwest Florida, and I am proud to honor their tremendous contributions to the community.

Mae Edwards Memorial United Methodist was started in 1884 on the Andrew Jackson Brown property. Since there were no other churches in the local community, all of the families moving to the area attended the same church regardless of denomination. In 1916, a new community church was constructed and used by members of the Methodist, Baptist, Presbyterian and Christian churches. During this time, Mae and Cliff Edwards moved to the area and joined the church. After their passing, the church was named as a memorial to Mae Edwards, who dedicated her time and

her effort to the church's progress and spiritual growth.

In 1936, the old church building was torn down, and wood from the building was used to construct a community hall and church alongside the local school. Church services were originally held in the community hall, but later moved inside the school after it was renovated. The old hall was converted into a kitchen, social area, and classrooms. The church continues to grow and serve the community, and in 2001, Mae Edwards Memorial was named the small membership church of the year for the Pensacola District. In a testament to the church's strength, many of the current members are descendants of the original church founders.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am privileged to honor Mae Edwards Memorial United Methodist Church upon 125 years of dedicated service to our community. My wife Vicki and I wish the best for continued growth and service to Reverend Byrd Mapoles and the entire church family.

INTRODUCING THE DETAINMENT
REFORM ACT OF 2009

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 6, 2009

Mr. HASTINGS. Madam Speaker, I rise to introduce the Detainment Reform Act of 2009, a bill to ensure that we can defend our national security while also ensuring the highest standards of human rights and justice. We owe such an effort not just to ourselves but to an entire world that looks to the United States for leadership. We are a nation where the rule of law is king, and our detainment policies must reflect not the whim of our emotions but the perseverance of our reason.

Great thinkers have long noted that a society can be judged by the way it treats its prisoners. Since the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, the United States has detained—for periods long and short—thousands of individuals captured in Iraq, Afghanistan, and elsewhere around the world. Many of those detained are guilty of committing terrible crimes. Many are innocent. We ought to have the authority to protect ourselves by detaining those who use murder, terror, and reckless violence to attack our country. But it must also be apparent that we cannot indefinitely detain those who mean us no harm.

Unfortunately, many of those we capture and detain do not easily fit into our criminal justice system. This has complicated the efforts to provide the same constitutional protections accorded accused persons in the United States. To compound the problem, there exists no agreed-upon procedural standard in United States courts to govern the detention of individuals arrested outside the zones of active military operations. This lack of judicial coherence has created a vacuum in which the current method of combating terrorism is not only inadequate to protect our country, but also fails to adhere to the Constitution, federal law, international human rights law, and the laws of armed conflict.

Under the detention regime in place since 2002, several detainees in United States control have died under mysterious circumstances. Many have been tortured. Still